

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-04 /064 W

----- 117942

R 041045Z NOV 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 0759

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL ARAB CAPITALS INFO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQI PARTICIPATION IN ARAB SUMMIT

1. ALTHOUGH ALL OF EMBASSY RABAT'S EXCELLENT CABLES ON SUMMIT NOT YET RECEIVED HERE, FOLLOWING IS EVALUATION OF IRAQI PARTICIPATION AS VIEWED FROM BAGHDAD.

2. ATTENDANCE BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT WHICH MARKED IRAQ'S FULL RETURN TO ARAB LEAGUE. FACT THAT PRESIDENT AL-BAKR DID NOT ATTEND, WHETHER BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH (CANCER OF STOMACH, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE BRITISH REPORT) OR OTHER REASON IS OF LITTLE IMPORT SINCE SADDAM IS KEY FOREIGN POLICY MAKER. SECONDLY, ATTENDANCE WAS MAJOR STEP IN EVOLUTION OF GOI FOREIGN POLICY OVER PAST YEAR AWAY FROM CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH USSR TOWARD NON-ALIGNMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO ACHIEVE FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. MOST STRIKING SIGNS

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WERE SADDAM'S MEETINGS WITH KINGS HUSSAIN AND FEISAL,

BOTH OF WHICH WERE GIVEN PUBLICITY HERE, AND SADDAM'S USE OF WORD "ISRAEL" IN HIS SPEECH. THIS IS FIRST TIME TO MY KNOWLEDGE TOP REGIME OFFICIAL HAS PUBLICLY CITED ISRAEL BY NAME RATHER THAN AS "OCCUPIED PALESTINE" OR "USURPED LAND". IN SHORT, ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT SEEMS TO SIGNAL RETURN TO THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM.

3. GOI MADE EXTENSIVE EFFORT TO GAIN PRESTIGE, DEMONSTRATE IMPORTANCE OF SADDAM'S ATTENDANCE, AND REASSURE PARTY MILITANTS THAT NO COMPROMISE OF IRAQI POLICY WAS OCCURRING. BOEING ENGINEERS WORKED ALL NIGHT OCTOBER 24 TO CONVERT TO VIP CONFIGURATION ONE OF NEW BOEING 707S FOR SADDAM TO USE. FINANCIAL GRANTS TOTALLING 115 MILLION DOLLARS ALSO FALL WITHIN PRESTIGE CAMPAIGN. MEDIA TREATED SADDAM'S ACTIVITIES AS MAJOR EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT RABAT AND EDITORIALS STRESSED ARAB SOLIDARITY AND QUALIFIED NATURE OF IRAQ'S SUPPORT FOR SUMMIT DECISIONS.

4. AS EXPECTED, IRAQ APPEARS TO HAVE RESERVED ITS POSITION ON MOST CRUCIAL QUESTIONS. SADDAM REITERATED GOI POLICY THAT ACCEPTS PARTIAL SETTLEMENT TO 1967 LINES, BUT ON CONDITION THAT IT DOES NOT ENTAIL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL AND IS CONSIDERED ONLY FIRST STAGE THAT DOES NOT COMPROMISE "HISTORIC ARAB RIGHTS TO PALESTINE IN ITS ENTIRETY". WHILE THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH, FOR IRAQ IT IS A STEP TOWARD REALITY AND AWAY FROM PREVIOUS POLICY OF "TOUT OU RIEN". WHILE ISRAELIS MAY CITE IT AS EXAMPLE OF REAL ARAB INTENTIONS, MANY OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE IT IS RHETORIC WHICH REGIME CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO COVER FIRST RETREAT FROM IRAQ'S RADICAL ANTI-ISRAELI POLICY WHICH HAS REMAINED RIGID SINCE 1948.

5. STRONGEST GOI OBJECTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVER PLO-JORDANIAN COMPROMISE AND, ACCORDING TO INA, IRAQI ENDORSEMENT WILL BE INVALID IF PLO GOES TO GENEVA OR BECOMES PARTY TO CURRENT CONTACTS WITH U.S. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE GOI PARTICIPATION IN SUMMIT MOVED IRAQ ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF SETTLEMENT, FOR IRAQI ACTIONS ARE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THEIR WORDS AND PUBLIC RECONCILIATION WITH FEISAL, HUSSAIN, AND SADAT SIGNAL NEW DIRECTION

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IN IRAQ'S ARAB POLICY.  
LOWRIE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARAB CAPITALS.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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